

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS POINTER

MARCH 2022

RIVER SYSTEM CONDITIONS

On average, the mountains in the Boise River Basin receive around 3 times more precipitation than the Treasure Valley. Of the precipitation received year round, about 75% comes from snow produced during the winter months. The National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has multiple snow telemetry (SNOTEL) sites strategically placed around the Boise River Basin. These SNOTEL sites allow experts to measure the amount of water in the snow, which helps them predict how much water will flow into the Boise River System during the spring and summer months. Obtaining this data allows reservoir managers to plan and make decisions on how much water to send down the river system when the snow starts to melt (BCAL, 2013).

The amount of snowfall received during the winter and the speed at which the snow melts during the spring are contributing factors to determine the risk of riverine flooding along the river system. Below are various data collection and analysis tools the public can use to see real-time river system conditions. These can help the public stay informed about the risk of riverine flooding year round. Links to these reports, tools, and more can be found on our website here: [Current River Conditions and System Information](#)

SNOTEL Snow Water Equivalent Map

This map depicts how much water is contained in the snowpack found at various basins throughout Idaho. When viewing this map, consider the following: (1) Data is retrieved and updated daily from SNOTEL sites. (2) Data is compared to the average value found over the last 30 years on that day (3) Normal is considered 100% [SNOTEL Water Equivalent Map](#)

Interactive Boise River Flood Maps

These interactive maps allow the user to view 15 different river flows along the Boise River ranging from 4200 - 34800 cfs. It is important to note that flood stage is considered 7000 cfs. These non-regulatory maps are used for awareness and planning purposes only. Users can view river flows from the [Diversion Dam to Eagle Island](#) and from [Eagle Island to the County Border](#).

Reservoir Storage Teacup Diagram

The major storage reservoirs in the Boise and Payette river systems are shown in this diagram. Anderson Ranch, Arrowrock, and Lucky Peak are the Boise River System reservoirs. Each “tea cup” in the diagram represents current storage capacity, helping to assess the risk of Boise River flooding. [Reservoir Teacup Diagram](#)

FEMA Flood Map Service Center

The FEMA flood map service allows anyone to see if their property resides within a floodplain. While this regulatory map can be used to help determine if a property is within a floodplain, residents should always consult their local Floodplain Administrator to verify. [FEMA Flood Map Service Center](#)

Real-Time Data for Idaho Stream Flows

Current stream flow rates throughout Idaho are presented in this report. The gauge at Glenwood Bridge is commonly used as a reference point to measure Boise River flow rates through town. [Real-Time Stream Flow](#)

Maps Produced By



FEMA



Reference: The Boise Center Aerospace Laboratory (BCAL). (2013). The Boise River From Snow to You. Retrieved from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=una9Fk0_n8I



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